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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

RECEIVED MAY 24 1957 DEPT OF STATE RM/R

DATE: May 23, 1957

SUBJECT: Volta River Scheme

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Chad T. Calhoun, Vice President, Kaiser Industries Corporation.
Mr. C. Richard Ward, Assistant to Mr. Calhoun.
AFS - Mr. George D. LaMont, Acting Director, Office of Southern Africa Affairs.
- Mr. W. R. Duggan, International Relations Officer, Office of Southern Africa Affairs.

COPIES TO:
Mr. Palmer - 1 cc
Mr. Berry - 1 cc
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At the request of the foregoing officers of the Kaiser Industries Corporation, an interview was arranged this morning with officers of AFS in which further discussion ensued concerning the interest of the Kaiser Company in the projected Volta River scheme.

Mr. Calhoun reported that following his last conversation with departmental officers about 10 days ago he was able to ascertain that the Utah Construction Company through a travelling representative in Africa, Mr. White, had shown some interest in the Volta River scheme and had possibly made a small financial contribution to the operations of Messrs. Slagle and Leith in Ghana. It was not clear to Mr. Calhoun whether Utah Construction Company would continue to make expenditures to support more detailed studies of the scheme or would continue its relationships with the Slagle-Leith group.

Mr. Calhoun said that at present his company knows nothing of Reynolds Aluminum's interests toward the Volta scheme but that he would attempt to ascertain the extent of that interest.

Mr. Calhoun was specific in stating and reiterating that his company might be interested in the Volta project particularly if a combine of aluminum and financial interests formed an association for its development but he stressed that his company definitely did not want to associate with Slagle and Leith nor with other unreliable or possibly disreputable "promoters". He stressed that a key factor in his company's continuing interest in this project would be the elimination of all such "promoters" but he did admit that some initiative in the way of "promotion" of the project was necessary. He said, however, that, for the time being, his company did not propose to take the initiative in such "promotion" but would wait to see the results of Slagle's and Leith's operations.

NEA:AFS:WRDuggan:dmt

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